

13th July 2008

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Reading - 2 Peter 3 v 1-10

Subject: Where is the promise of His coming?

A common question is, "If there is a God why does He not intervene?"

To answer this, we need to consider:

What is the promise of His coming?
How can we be sure that promise will be fulfilled?
Why is there a delay?
When will the promise be fulfilled?

What is the Promise?

The coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ. He will come back for His own and be caught up into the heavens (1 Thes 4:13-18; 2 Peter 1:11). The day of Salvation will end and the day of the Lord will begin (1 Thes 5).

For God to intervene in this world will mean judgment for the world (Acts 17:31). He has given His word to all men. Men should obey.

God must deal with sin. We will all give an account to God (Romans 14:12).

God is going to intervene which means judgment for those who refuse the Gospel. This intervention has been delayed because God wants to deal in mercy rather than judgment : He "is not willing that any should perish" (2 Pet 3:9).

God must and will judge according to His plans for the world (Acts 17:31).

The promise is the fulfilment of Gods plan for this world. The world is going to be transformed from a place where sin reigns to a place where righteousness reigns (Isaiah 32).

How can we be sure?

We have the Word of God (2 Peter 1:19). God has said it. If God says something - He will fulfil everything what He has spoken of. Look at how many prophesies have already been fulfilled. God cannot fail in anything He has said (Titus 1:2). A thousand years before the crucifixion in the Psalms, David spoke of how they would put the Saviour to death.

God has given warning because He has already dealt in judgment with the world in the days of Noah (2 Peter 3:5,6). God spared not the evil ungodly world apart from Noah and his family (2 Peter 2:5).

God will deal in judgment against sin. Men want to ignore the evidence of the flood because it means that they cannot deny that there is a God Who will judge sin. They try to mask the evidence with scientific theory, but they ignore the historical fact that Job Chapters 40 and 41 give an accurate description of dinosaurs. In this way, the Bible shows us that dinosaurs existed at the same time as man and Job specifically, who probably lived soon after the flood. The likely explanation is that the fossils were generated during the flood. Men choose to turn their back on the evidence because if men believe in the flood they have to believe the rest of God's Word. The reality is that Gods word is accurate and cannot fail.

In mercy, rather than judging the world, the Lord Jesus Christ has died and risen again so that God has a righteous basis for delivering man from the judgment for their sins. In Psalm 110:1, there is a clear indication that this is temporary, "Sit Thou on My right hand until I make Thine enemies the footstool of Thy feet". In one verse, both the delay and the final judgment are foretold. He will fulfil

His word.

Why the delay?

The call of God goes out to the ends of the earth in Isaiah 45:21 “Look unto me and be ye saved”. He wants to give opportunity for all men to be saved, but He has decreed, “I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth *in* righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear”. (Isaiah 45:23)

This is applied directly to the Lord Jesus in Philippians 2 “In the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord”

The desire of God is that men will bow the knee - “not willing that any should perish”

“God our Saviour would have all men to be saved”

God's desire is that all men might be saved (1 Tim 2:4), that is, that all men have the opportunity to be saved. To achieve this, God has acted to provide a mediator between men and God (1 Tim 2:5). The heart of man has never changed. Sin reigns in the heart, but still God has acted to such an extent that the One Who is the mediator is the one who paid the price meets the need of every person who lives and has ever lived (1 Tim 2:6). This is available to all men, but it is only enjoyed by those who put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. We have to recognise that sin cuts us off from God and that the only answer is that the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth from all sin”(1 John 1:7).

There is no sin which cannot be cleansed, and it is all because Christ died and rose again.

The Gospel of Christ is something that needs to be obeyed. There is no escape from the judgment of God but there is Salvation for all those who call on the name of the Saviour and put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

What is the promise?

“I will come again” (John 14:3)

How can we be sure?

God said it.

Why the delay?

God wants all men to be saved (2 Peter 3:9)

When will it be fulfilled?

We cannot tell (Acts 1:7), “it is not for you to know the times and the seasons”. They will be fulfilled in Gods good time.

The only escape is to respond now while it is still a day of salvation- “Behold now is the accepted time now is the day of Salvation” (2 Cor 6:2).